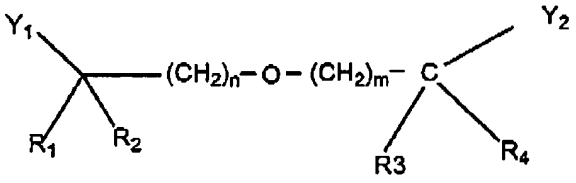
## Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the current application.

## Listing of Claims

Claims 1 – 16 (canceled).

Claim 17 (original): A method for reducing systemic inflammation comprising administering to a mammal, in need thereof, an effective amount of a compound of the formula:

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wherein

n and m independently are integers from 2 to 9;

$R_1$, $R_2$, $R_3$, and $R_4$ independently are $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_6$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_6$ alkynyl, and $R_1$ and $R_2$ together with the carbon to which they are attached, and $R_3$ and $R_4$ together with the carbon to which they are attached, independently can complete a carbocyclic ring having from 3 to 6 carbons;

$Y_1$ and $Y_2$ independently are COOH, CHO, tetrazole, and $COOR_5$ where $R_5$ is $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_6$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_6$ alkynyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl;

and where the alkyl, alkenyl, and alkynyl groups may be substituted with one or two groups selected from halo, hydroxy, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkoxy, and phenyl,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

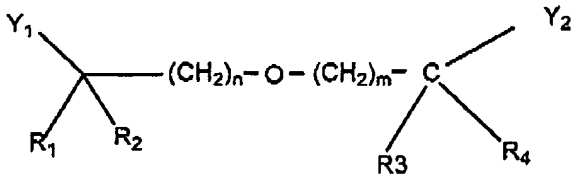
Claim 18 (original): A method according to Claim 17 wherein the mammal is a human.

Claim 19 (original): A method according to Claim 18 wherein the compound inhibits proinflammatory cytokine induced CRP production.

Claim 20 (original): The method according to Claim 17 wherein the compound is 6,6'-oxybis(2,2-dimethylhexanoic acid) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 21 (original): A method according to Claim 20 wherein the mammal is a human.

Claim 22 (original): A method for reducing systemic inflammation comprising administering to a mammal, in need thereof, an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of the formula:




I

wherein

n and m independently are integers from 2 to 9;

$R_1$, $R_2$, $R_3$, and $R_4$ independently are $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_6$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_6$ alkynyl, and $R_1$ and $R_2$ together with the carbon to which they are attached, and $R_3$ and $R_4$ together with the carbon to which they are attached, independently can complete a carbocyclic ring having from 3 to 6 carbons;

$Y_1$ and $Y_2$ independently are COOH, CHO, tetrazole, and $COOR_5$ where $R_5$ is $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_6$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_6$ alkynyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl;

and where the alkyl, alkenyl, and alkynyl groups may be substituted with one or two groups selected from halo, hydroxy, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkoxy, and phenyl,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent, carrier, or excipient.

Claim 23 (original): A method according to Claim 22 wherein the mammal is a human.

Claim 24 (original): A method according to Claim 23 wherein the compound inhibits proinflammatory cytokine induced CRP production.

Claim 25 (original): A method according to Claim 22 wherein the compound is 6,6'-oxybis(2,2-dimethylhexanoic acid) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 26 (original): A method according to Claim 25 wherein the mammal is a human.

Claims 27-36 (canceled).